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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,846	11/05/2003	James R. Colgrove	4103	7778

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KENYON & KENYON LLP
ONE BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004

EXAMINER

JOERGER, KAITLIN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 20 recites the limitation "said grids" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baltzer et al. (5,967,336) in view of Riddle et al. (5,927,511).

Baltzer et al. teaches a screen assembly comprising a frame, 12, spaced side members, 14 and 16, first and second spaced end members, 18 and 20, openings between said side members and said first and second end member, 54, a plurality of spaced ribs extending between and joining said spaced side members, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 50. The openings are oriented in rows extending crosswise of said side members, wherein a plurality of openings are located between a certain numbers of ribs, see figure 3.

Baltzer et al., however, fails to teach lower concave edges on said ribs, but Riddle et al. does teach this feature, see figures 3 and 5. It is well known in the art to use a crowned deck vibrating shaker as opposed to a flat deck vibrating shaker. In order for a screen assembly to be able to be accommodated on a crowned deck vibrating shaker the bottom surface of the frame must be arched or concave in order to match the curve of the crowned deck surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the ribs of Baltzer et al. with a concave bottom edge as taught by Riddle et al. in order to use the screen assembly of Baltzer et al. on a crowned deck vibrating shaker.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10, 22-34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 10 claims the feature of recessed indentations in the lower surface of the spaced side members. After an extensive search of the prior art the examiner was unable to find a reference that taught such a feature. The closest prior art that taught recessed portions was found in the framing and structures art, which taught recessed portions used when joining two beams together, as taught in U.S. Patent No. 6,112,410. The examiner was unable to find adequate motivation to combine the framing prior art with screen assemblies, and therefore the claims were found to be allowable.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claims 22 and 34, Baltzer (6,269,954) was found to be the most relevant prior art. Baltzer teaches the features of claims 22 and 34 except for the feature of ribs that are tapered away from the screen. In fact, Baltzer specifically states that the ribs of the present embodiment are narrower at the top than the

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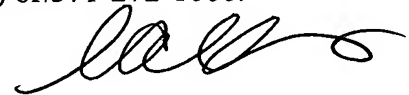
bottom in cross-section, and therefore does not teach the tapered rib feature claimed in claims 22 and 34.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaitlin S. Joerger whose telephone number is 571-272-6938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



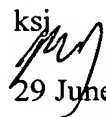
EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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29 June 2006